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From: Diane Pleschner-Steele [<mailto:dplesch@earthlink.net>]

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2005 10:32 AM

To: Phil Isenberg; Melissa Miller-Henson

Cc: MLPA Comments

Subject: Study Area Boundaries

Hi Phil and Melissa,

Please distribute this letter to the task force on behalf of the members of CFC. We'd greatly appreciate your consideration of these recommendations when discussing the boundaries of the central coast study area.

In short, extending the boundaries north of Pidgeon Point or south of Pt. Arguello would draw in two very large, entirely disparate stakeholder groups. In our view this would unnecessarily complicate the process and undermine communications.

Thanks very much for your understanding.

Best,

Diane P. on behalf of CFC Trustees

CALIFORNIA FISHERIES COALITION

March 22, 2005

Alliance of Communities for
Sustainable Fisheries

California Abalone Growers

California Lobster & Trap Association

California Fisheries & Seafood Institute

California Wetfish Producers Association

Central Coast Fisheries Conservation
Coalition

Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara
Inc.

Federation of Independent Seafood
Harvesters

Fishermen's Alliance of California

Fishermen's Association of Moss Landing

Golden Gate Fishermen's Association

I.S.P. Alginates Kelp Harvesters

Kingfisher Trading Inc.

Monterey Commercial Fishermen's
Association

Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's
Organization

Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's
Association

Recreational Fishing Alliance

Sea Urchin Harvesters Association - CA

Sea Urchin Processors Association – CA

South Central Nearshore Trap Organization

Southern CA Trawlers Association

Sportfishing Association of California

Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's
Association

For further information, contact
Vern Goehring, CFC Manager

Mr. Phil Isenberg, Chair
MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Melissa Miller-Henson

Subject: Comments on MLPA Project Area Designation

Dear Mr. Isenberg and Task Force Members:

We're writing on behalf of the California Fisheries Coalition, a group of diverse marine-related interests united by their dependence on the ocean and their interest in promoting policies that support and protect ocean-dependent industries and the coastal communities of California as well as marine resources. As you know, members of the CFC include recreational and commercial fishing groups involving more than 13,000 fishermen, 191 seafood processors who employ more than 171,000 employees, abalone growers and the largest kelp harvesting company in California. Individually each member of the CFC has an abiding interest in a healthy ocean and sustainable resources. Collectively, the California Fisheries Coalition advocates for the heritage and economic value of fishing to California's coastal communities.

When considering size of the MLPA Initiative project area on the central coast, we ask you to consider the typical use patterns of the various fishing communities within and surrounding the central coast region and select a study area that concentrates participation of the regional stakeholder group to the core central coast region, specifically the ports Morro Bay/Port San Luis and Monterey/Moss Landing. Limiting the RSG to no more than this core group of fishermen will facilitate communications.

We recommend establishing the northern boundary no farther north than Pidgeon Point, several miles north of Pt. Año Nuevo. Extending the line farther north would engage another large user group of San Francisco Bay fishermen, who fish outside the bay as far south as the Pillar Point / Half Moon Bay area but typically do not range farther south. Similarly, we recommend setting the southern boundary no farther south than Pt. Arguello. If the southern boundary extended as far as Point Conception, that would again draw in a large part of the southern California fleet. The area between Pt. Arguello and Point Conception is heavily used by Santa Barbara fishermen, as well as wetfish fishermen from San Diego and San Pedro, but typically the southern fleet does not range north of Pt. Arguello. Including the far northern and far southern user groups in the study area would necessitate convening at least two regional stakeholder groups, and more appropriately, four. This would cause communications difficulties in addition to financial hardship on participating fishermen.

In summary, we recommend that the northern limit of the study area extend no farther north than Pidgeon Point, near Año Nuevo, and the southern limit extend no farther south than Pt. Arguello. Thank you very much for considering this recommendation.

Trustees for the California Fisheries Coalition

Bob Fletcher
Sportfishing Association of California

Jim Martin
Recreational Fishing Alliance

Steve Scheiblaue
Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries

Peter Halmay
Sea Urchin Harvesters - California

Diane Pleschner-Steele
CA Wetfish Producers Association